

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES BOARD

Whether free dinners or cheap movies, CAB puts it on for students with their money and their suggestions.



WHITE WATER RAFTING



PAINTBALL OUTING

PAPER LANTERN PAINTING



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY AMANDA LEECH

CARLY SCHOTT
Assistant News Editor

Dinner at Bravo, free. A weekend rafting trip — transportation included — \$90. These are only some of the events Campus Activities Board has planned with the creativity of its committee members, along with the help of its budget. Most of the events are popular and aside from not being able to provide alcohol, there are no stipulations on how CAB can spend money.

“We’re pretty much open to anything,” said Carlos Stewart, CAB adviser and assistant director for programming in the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership. “We try to access [what’s missing] and listen to the students.”

Students seem to appreciate it.

“CAB events provide the opportunity to do something fun and different on the weekend,” said senior Anna Thacker, who participates in several events a semester.

According to Stewart, CAB receives a budget of \$89,000 a year allotted through the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership. Much of CAB’s budget comes from the student activities fee that is included in tuition, which is roughly \$9 per student, said David Mattingly, senior co-president along with Pat Tassone.

CAB is broken down into four

committees: Arts and Entertainment; Travel and Recreation; Arts and Crafts; and Concert and Comedy. Each of these committees receives a portion of the budget, broken down into fall and spring semesters.

With their budgets, the committees put on Weekend Scenes, with different committees in charge of certain months.

Mattingly said CAB works to keep event prices low or free, estimating that “eight out of 10 events” are free.

One of CAB’s most popular events was the white water rafting trip in the fall. It cost \$170 per student and transportation cost \$3,000, students only paid \$90. Last year, around 54 students attended the event that sold out in three hours.

Other examples of how CAB spends its budget include this week’s mosaic tray making. It is a free event put on by the Arts and Crafts committee and supplies costs totaled around \$500, all covered by CAB.

Another free upcoming event, dinner at Bravo, covers 36 students for a dinner up to \$25, totaling \$900. CAB is also hosting an event for Lil Sibbs Weekend: comedian David Cummins whose price tag is around \$3,000.

With the many events CAB puts on at these costs, it would seem that they have money to spare. Not entirely true.

See *Budget* on p. 5

University plans campus tennis courts

JENNIE SZINK
News Editor

In a little over a week, the University of Dayton could have the OK to break ground for six tennis courts on Caldwell Street that would be used by UD tennis teams and university members.

Since demolishing the courts that were in the greenspace outside KU five years ago, the university has searched for a new lo-

cation. The Campus Master Plan originally placed courts next to the Athletic Practice Facility, but due to underground utility lines and terrain the university chose to move them to behind the College Park Center on Brown Street.

On Tuesday the City of Dayton Board of Zoning will review the plan, which involves pushing the InterMed parking lot to the

West, said Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management Beth Keyes.

“There will be six courts, three of which can be reserved for tennis team practice and matches,” Keyes said about the courts that won’t be open to the city of Dayton residents. “There will be card access on them and a restroom building between the courts.”

See *Courts* on p. 4

Stores closing nationally, potentially leaving Dayton retail lacking

STEPHANIE VERMILLION
Chief Staff Writer

Santa went straight to the sale racks this economically-disastrous holiday season, which tipped many stores over the edge to bankruptcy and closings.

The 2009 retail year started out in the slumps with the national closing of Linens 'N Things, Steve & Barry's and Circuit City, 11 Macy's Department Stores closing and 12 Office Depots shutting down. According to www.aol.com. Dwindling consumerism is largely to blame.

"First and foremost stores can't generate sufficient sales to justify keeping them open with consumers pulling back," said Doug Harnish, president of Gem Real Estate Group's public sector services in Dayton. "It's a whole meltdown of things that have been a precursor to the recession we're in now. A lot of what you saw in the holidays is fear. People were afraid of losing their jobs or already lost their jobs, and that really caused them to hold back."

Consumers cannot take the full blame, though. The suffer-

ing stores could have approached their market differently. An example is Elder Beerman, another dependable retail store facing a cloudy future.

"Some of the problem is not meeting consumer demands and some of it is stores having no defining characteristics," Harnish said. "One example is Elder Beerman. It is a middle-of-the-road department store. It doesn't have a cache name like Macy's on the upscale end, nor does it have Target's identity at the bargain end."

Sears is also facing quite a dilemma and has become a "General Motors of retailing," Harnish said. With Elder Beerman and Sears both being anchor stores at the Dayton Mall, their possible closures may cause déjà vu to Dayton residents who remember the Salem Mall.

"If two anchor stores go dark and the chain fails, retailers can bail out at will," he said. "This happened with the Salem Mall, Dayton's first mall built in 1966, and the mall doesn't exist anymore. The possibility for that to happen to the Dayton Mall is remote, but there is a general trend

away from mall retail. The market has moved to lifestyle centers like The Greene."

The fresh air shopping of The Greene in Beavercreek has drawn a large sector of the market away from malls: college students. UD sophomore and Dayton resident Kacie Hausfeld is part of this market.

"I like The Greene more because of the environment," she said. "I really like the fun atmosphere and the variety of restaurants it has to offer. I like the outdoor malls because they seem like a small, energetic city within themselves."

High unemployment rates are shrinking the market Dayton retailers need. There's more bad news stemming from that. The city of Dayton has a significantly higher amount of retail space than other areas, meaning more possibility for vacant shopping centers.

"We have a market of a million people and about 55 million feet of retail space," Harnish said. "The usual is about half of that. I think we can easily see vacancies exceed 15 or 20 percent once we get



POOR 2008 RETAIL SALES LED MANY STORES TO REDUCE PRICES OR CLOSE SOME, IF NOT ALL OF THEIR LOCATIONS. — BRIANA SNYDER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

through this all. That would be 11 million square feet, the equivalent of 11 Dayton Malls vacant."

With consumers leaning toward outdoor shopping centers like The Greene and Dayton's excessive amounts of retail space, it's not hard to fathom that the world of shopping is changing.

It may mean new stores possibly filling the space of Dayton Mall's Ann Taylor Loft, which is

set to close in early 2009. It may also mean that high-priced luxury goods are a thing of the past and bargain-hunting is here to stay.

"I think price is important," Hausfeld said. "It is best to look around from store to store in order to compare prices. My roommate's mom even went shopping for Christmas presents the day after Christmas in order to get great deals."



My Career Is: Marianist

Bro. Bob Jones, SM,
Marianist brother, teacher
and UD graduate

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Marianist brother at
marianist.com/meetus

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at Sean.Downing@notes.udayton.edu

ANNA BEYERLE
Staff Writer

In the past, when a bad economy settles in, graduate schools see a spike in their applications.

With this recession, it's not been the case, according to Edward Mykytka, associate dean of UD's graduate school.

"Our graduate enrollments are slightly up this year over the past two academic years," Mykytka said. "Although we are pleased that the enrollment numbers are up slightly compared to the most recent two years, I wouldn't consider this a spike or trend."

There were 2,705 graduate students, excluding law students, who enrolled at UD during the fall 2008 semester. This is compared to the 2,536 students enrolled in fall 2007 and 2,580 during the fall 2006 semester.

The Chronicle of Higher Education has reported the amount of Graduate Record Examinations were expected to be lower in 2008 than in recent years.

The Educational Testing Center, the organization that administers the GRE, has estimated that a maximum of 625,000 Americans took the GRE in 2008, compared to 633,000 in 2007.

Executive Director of the GRE David G. Payne attributes this downturn to the current economic status in the United States. Yet, in the past, most people generally take the GRE during times of economic distress.

Payne said since this recession is more extreme to those in the past graduate school hopefuls have been deferred from the GRE because of rising tuition prices and possible loans.

"That decline [in GRE taking] is a little surprising," Mykytka said. "Economic slowdowns tend to produce larger graduate enrollments as people attempt to complete graduate degree or certificate programs, or even just take additional coursework, in order to enhance their competitiveness in the job market."

Aaron Moores is a UD gradu-

ate student planing to graduate in May 2010 with a Master's of Public Administration. He said he hopes his master's degree will put him in a position to better find a job he enjoys and that the economic recession did not impact his decision to attend graduate school.

"It is easier for me to pay for grad school than it was for me to pay for my undergraduate studies," Moores said. "Many of the graduate programs are far less expensive because you are not paying for all of the services associated with campus life. Graduate assistantships are really helpful and can cover large amounts of tuition, and often provide a stipend."

Jen Strimpfel, an undergraduate student at UD who will graduate this May with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, is planning on attending graduate school and eventually receiving her doctorate and becoming a psychologist.

"It is almost impossible to get a job as a therapist or counselor without a graduate degree," Strimpfel

said. "I knew that if I wanted to be a psychologist, I would have to go to graduate school."

According to Moores, the current regression has not impacted many people he knows. If anything, it seems to have only encouraged students to continue on to post-graduate studies to narrow their career field, he said. Strimpfel said the economic decline seemed to have only made individuals want to go back to school and earn a higher degree to increase their competitiveness in the job market.

She said many people she knows have thought about graduate school more seriously, as a way to stay in school and wait for the economic climate to turn upward.

"Hopefully I will be able to be a TA wherever I go, and if not, I will take out loans," Strimpfel said. "I am glad that I am planning on going to graduate school, because hopefully that will give me more stability and flexibility with my career in the future."

GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICANTS BUCKING TRENDS

FACILITIES EDUCATING STUDENTS, FIXING UP HOUSES IN NEIGHBORHOODS

KELSEY CANO

Assistant News Editor

Imagine pulling back your covers after a long night, anxious to crawl into bed and guess what's waiting for you?

A possum.

This is exactly what happened to the residents of 339 Stonemill Rd. and Residential Properties at Facilities Management could hardly believe the complaint.

When fifth-year Alicia Smith found the possum in her roommate's bed, she and her roommates called Public Safety to take care of the problem. When the residents said they thought there were still more possums in the house, it took Facilities five days before searching their house for more rodents.

"They thought only one or two (possums) got in," Smith said. "It took them a week and a half to believe us that we had more than just two... (They) finally called the trap company to set the traps one and a half weeks after we found the first one."

After traps were set in the house and in the basement, a total of nine baby possums were found in the house.

Facilities Management has seen a wide range of issues; there were 15,000 work orders last year. With these numbers, it would probably take extremes, such as a basement full of baby possums to surprise them.

"We see a large variety of work

orders ranging from burned out light bulbs to roof or electrical repair," Assistant Director of Facilities Management at Residential Properties David Scanlon said. "Lots of interesting things happen."

"The University of Dayton has one of the largest, if not the largest, housing system of any college in the U.S.," Scanlon said. "Our students keep us busy, and they are good about sharing their appreciation and having a friendly rapport with our technicians."

Fifth-year Mike Dipilato has filled his share of work orders, from the normal to the interesting.

"They've come out too many times to count," Dipilato said. "We break a lot of [stuff]. We've had holes, broken windows and a broken wall."

Dipilato currently has a work order in for his broken wall.

He explained the broken wall wasn't an accident. After angry games on the weekend, "we kicked it," Dipilato said.

Although he's already placed a work order and the damage has been assessed, Facilities Management is waiting to repair the damage since it's too big of a problem to repair with students living there, Dipilato explained.

"They have to tear down the wall," he said. "The back of it is all plaster and to fix it, they have to re-drywall the whole thing."

Dipilato also has a work order in for a rotting floor.

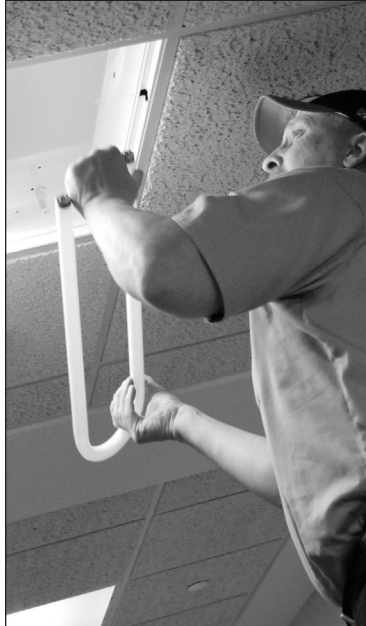
"The downstairs bathroom toilet is wobbly because the wood floor is rotting out from underneath it," he said.

Despite the broken wall and wobbly toilet, Dipilato is pleased overall with Facilities Management.

"The guys are always nice, they fix things extremely quickly, they don't get in the way and we've never had a problem with them," he said.

Smith has had a different experience with Facilities Management and isn't as pleased as Dipilato.

"We had e-mailed and called on multiple occasions to get this matter recognized as serious and they just kept telling us to put a work order in online," Smith said. "After a week we actually had to get our parents to call them and e-mail them to get it taken care of."



Scanlon points out since college is the first time many students have had the opportunity to live on their own, technicians spend quite a bit of time educating them.

Senior Becca Edwards had the experience with a plugged toilet.

"I plunged it with all of my might & then one of my guy friends came over and tried as well, but it started overflowing all over the entire bathroom," Edwards said. "Impressively, the maintenance men came within about 20 minutes, unclogged the toilet with one freaking plunge and gave me a lecture about the correct plungers to purchase."

Facilities Management spends their time educating students on other issues as well.

For example, "Keep heat turned up while away from the house in the winter to prevent frozen pipes, keep doors and windows locked for safety reasons and keep to a minimum the items," Scanlon said.

If students ever have a situation similar to Smith's, or a less serious situation such as a burnt out light bulb or a broken air conditioner, they should contact Facilities Management, Scanlon said.

Students can enter a work order into the system 24/7 at <http://campus.udayton.edu/~facman/workrequests>.

Scanlon added if there is an emergency, such as a CO2 detector issue, a furnace stops working, a broken pipe or security issue, students should call the Call Center at 229-3753 during normal business hours and also enter a work order. If it's after hours, Public Safety should be notified.

Liquor sales highest ever

JEREMY VINLUAN

Staff Writer

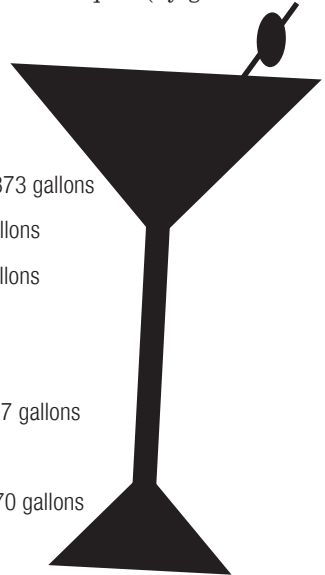
Alcohol plays more roles than just affecting the mind and body; it also impacts the economy, as 2008 spirituous liquor sales showed.

The Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Liquor Control announced the dollar sales of spirituous liquor (defined as "intoxicating liquor containing more than 21 percent alcohol by volume") hit a record high of \$719.2 million in 2008. In 2007, dollar sales of spirituous liquor added up to \$32.6 million less.

The money from the liquor sales went back into drinkers' pockets as moneys collected "are used to help fund a variety of state services that benefit all Ohioans," according to a press release from the Commerce Division.

Below are the top 10-selling brands of spirituous liquor (by gallons sold) in Ohio for 2008:

1. **KAMCHATKA VODKA** – 380,465 gallons
2. **JACK DANIELS TENNESSEE WHISKEY** – 359,873 gallons
3. **BACARDI SUPERIOR LIGHT RUM** – 328,920 gallons
4. **CAPTAIN MORGAN SPICED RUM** – 285,763 gallons
5. **JAGERMEISTER** – 284,488 gallons
6. **SMIRNOFF VODKA** – 277,937 gallons
7. **CROWN ROYAL CANADIAN WHISKEY** – 275,027 gallons
8. **ABSOLUT VODKA** – 267,159 gallons
9. **BLACK VELVET CANADIAN WHISKEY** – 250,070 gallons
10. **KORSKI VODKA** – 227,403 gallons



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ABOVE: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT SAID THE JOB OF FIXING DIPILATO'S WALL IS SO BIG IT MUST WAIT UNTIL SUMMER. — KELSEY CANO/ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

TOP: JEFF LLOYD CHANGES A LIGHT BULB. BRIANA SNYDER /PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

campus watch

JAN.
23

TODAY

FRIDAY NIGHT FILMS

Come to ArtStreet Studio B at 9 p.m. to watch *Burn After Reading*. The movie is a dark spy comedy about an ousted CIA official's memoir that accidentally fell into the hands of two unwise gym employees intent on exploiting their find.

FLICK'N FLOAT

From 10 p.m. to midnight, come to the RecPlex to watch a movie while floating in the pool.

JAN.
24

SATURDAY

PUB AND POKER

Come play poker and help out Habitat for Humanity at the Pub starting at 7:30 p.m. Top prize is a free trip to Daytona, along with other prizes to local restaurants. If interested, contact Casey at schustce@notes.udayton.edu or Andrew at perkinal@notes.udayton.edu.

SHOPPING SPREE

Join CAB today for a trip to Kenwood Mall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Transportation is provided. Go to the CAB office, KU 215, to sign up.

JAN.
27

TUESDAY

BLOOD DRIVE

Go to the RecPlex from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a blood drive sponsored by AED. All donors receive a coupon for Buffalo Wild Wings. Sign up for a donation time at www.donortime.com, under UD RecPlex code 10271.

FAMILY FEUD TIME

Come check out the family feud UD style in honor of our Marianist heritage. It is taking place 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the KU Ballroom. Free food, drinks, and door prizes will be provided, along with an opportunity to learn more about our Marianist heritage and UD history.

JAN.
31

SATURDAY

SEMESTER OF SUN

Looking to study somewhere new and exciting? The application deadline for studying in Hawaii at Chaminade University of Honolulu for fall 2009 and spring 2010 is today. Visit <http://international.udayton.edu/chaminade> for more information.

One week until finding out D2D hotel

GRACE RODNEY
Staff Writer

Dayton to Daytona sign-ups are just around the corner and with last week's below-zero weather, it's all anyone can do not to dream about Daytona's sunny beaches.

From Monday to Jan. 31, UD will be taken over by Daytona. With a whole week of events ending with sign-ups, students will get the chance to prepare to "bring the Ghetto poolside."

In order to book a Daytona trip, students must go through three steps. First, they need to book their own individual trip on www.dayton2daytona.com and clicking on BOOK NOW. It also requires a \$50 deposit. Print out the confirmation and bring it to sign-ups on Jan. 31. At least three people planning to room together need to have booked their trip by this date.

Next, it's time to register for the hotel lottery, which is based partly on seniority. All the hotels are located within walking distance of the first hotel, where

all the daytime activities occur. Each hotel will have a certain amount of rooms allocated to each class. For example, a hotel with 200 rooms might have 100 rooms for seniors, 50 for juniors, 30 for sophomores and 20 for freshmen.

One room captain needs to go to Daytona.udayton.edu and fill out the required information for hotel registration. Print a confirmation and bring that along to sign-ups, too.

At least one person needs to attend sign-ups at Frericks center on Jan. 31.

Check-in time is based on grade: freshmen 10 a.m.; sophomores 10:30 a.m.; juniors 11 a.m.; and seniors 11:30 a.m. In order to be part of the lottery process, a student must have three Breakaway confirmation pages, one lottery confirmation page and three non-perishable food items to be donated to Catholic Charities.

The cost of trip is \$191 for a five-person room. The price includes six night accommodations at a hotel, daily pool deck parties with a live D.J., free beverages from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., a free pig

roast, a Breakaway Tours wristband for special discounts, a Dayton to Daytona T-shirt and souvenir mug, and live entertainment from UD and a headline band.

There will also be other events throughout the week such as a volleyball tournament, an opportunity to go to Disney World and service opportunities.

"Dayton to Daytona is bringing the ghetto to the Daytona beach," Maggie Schnering, Daytona trip coordinator, said. "Where else can you swim in the ocean, lay on the beach, and spend a weeklong vacation with over 2,000 fellow classmates?"

Students are encouraged to participate in Daytona week events such as "Daytona Idol" at Milanos and "Tim's goes Daytona." There will be multiple times throughout the week to win prizes including free trips, first hotel spots, and V.I.P. status during Daytona.

For more information go to Daytona.udayton.edu or e-mail Daytona@notes.udayton.edu.



THE DAYTONA POOL DECK FILLED WITH STUDENTS ON A PREVIOUS D2D TRIP. — PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY DAYTON TO DAYTONA COMMITTEE

COURTS (cont. from p. 1)

If approved, the university will put out a bid for the job and hopes to start the project in late spring. It is estimated to

cost \$500,000 and a donor has given money to the school and had input in the plans. Extras like lighting are in the plans but their construction depends on pricing.

Constructing the courts will take about 12 weeks. Keyes said the goal is to have them playable by the start of classes in the fall of 2009.

Crime Log

The Department of Public Safety reported there are no current crime logs for this issue. Crime logs will return in the next issue, on Tuesday.

CLICK!

Think you've got an eye for photography? Here's your chance to get it published. Just send your 'CLICK' picture to photo@flyernews.com along with your first and last name and a brief description. Click away!



Freshman psychology major Janie Heekan makes sandwiches at her job for the dining services operation the Emporium. BRIANA SNYDER/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

sudoku

Challenge Level: Evil
Source : WebSudoku.com

				1				
					2	4	9	
		3	7			6		
7					1		8	3
9								6
3	2		8					7
		2			3	1		
	9	4	6					
				8				

BUDGET

(cont. from p. 1)

"If CAB were able to have more money, we would like to take more students," Mattingly said about the events that fill up quickly.

Compare that to universities like Carnegie Mellon, which has a student fee of \$91, or even Wright State, with a fee of \$200.

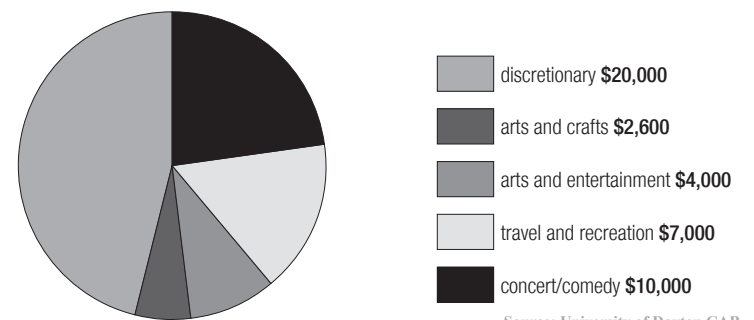
"Do you wonder why places like Wright State and even Marietta College can bring big names like Jason Mraz?" Mattingly said. "Their budgets are a lot bigger."

Instead of receiving a larger budget, Mattingly said CAB has begun collaborating with other organizations on campus. CAB, Relay for Life and the Student Government Association are

putting their money together for artists ranging from \$10,000 to \$40,000. Acts like Taylor Swift cost around \$200,000, according to Mattingly.

"We've shown the university that we can collaborate and collaborate successfully. With a larger budget, we can continue to grow and provide more activities for students."

CAB expenses per semester



Source: University of Dayton CAB

Classifieds

HOUSING

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Students record albums at UD recording studio

ANNA DANESE
Staff Writer

UD students looking to be producers or cut a demo don't have to look any further than ArtStreet.

Street Sounds Recording Studio provides a hands-on learning experience for students interested in music technology, recording and sound engineering while serving as a professional quality studio for local artists. The club is open to any student interested in recording regardless of previous experience.

Eric Suttman, one of the faculty members responsible for developing Street Sounds, said that the studio is a perfect way to explore the audio arts.

"As computer audio production is becoming more and more accessible to students on their own computers, it seems every other dorm room is being turned into a small recording studio," Suttman said. "It's important to have a center where those that want to take it to the next level creatively have the resources to explore this art on a professional level, with top-shelf equipment and support."

Street Sounds president Alex Hoffman said the studio's clientele is 60 to 70 percent UD students and another portion is from off campus. Artists who have recorded at the studio include The Werks, The Joose Box, The Melting Room, Chip Christy, and Pat Kelly. Studio members have recorded interviews and jam sessions with groups that came to campus, such as jazz/hip-hop/world music group Project, alternative rock band Bellfield, and non-traditional music group



Street Sounds Vice-president Mike Berg plays the drums in the recording studio, located at ArtStreet. — CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE BERG

STOMP — all played on campus last semester as part of a CAB event or the UD Arts Series. One of STOMP's members recorded part of his album at Street Sounds as part of an on-tour project.

The studio is not limited to recording bands. Music majors record audition tapes for graduate school and students record theme songs for Flyer TV shows at the studio. Hoffman also produces the Flyer Radio show Mirepoix by recording poetry that has been submitted to "Orpheus," and he is working on an advertisement for ArtStreet that includes an "audio collage" of students' reactions to

various pieces of art.

Senior Mike Berg, the Street Sounds vice-president, said the studio offers an unusual option for musicians because members are encouraged to work closely with clients and therefore offer a more tailored and experimental recording opportunity.

"Everyone learns simultaneously, both the producer and the musician," Berg said.

Junior Pat McInnis chose to record his EP to be released at the end of the semester, "Fragments of an Idle Mind," at Street Sounds for this very reason. He said that Street Sounds is not only significantly

cheaper than a professional studio, but the experimental atmosphere has helped him develop as a musician.

"I like to use the studio in an unorthodox way, and it's fun to work with Alex [Hoffman] and figure out what I want a recording to sound like," McInnis said. "From day one, we've been testing each other to see what we can do. I can record on a laptop in Sears or M&T and then bring that back to the studio. I also don't have to worry about time being money."

McInnis also stressed the importance of the studio's location on campus.

"Instead of having five of your friends get in a car and drive 15 minutes to a studio, you can have a friend from Kiefaber and a friend from Lawnview walk to Art Street

and it's just as good as that other studio," McInnis said. "Why would you not take advantage of that?"

Hoffman and Berg said all Street Sounds members are also willing to learn about other aspects of the industry. Past members have been interested in music promotion and Hoffman and Berg have helped musicians with songwriting.

"With Street Sounds, you get what you put into the experience," Hoffman said. "We're always open to helping and learning in any way we can."

Any student interested in being recorded or recording should contact the studio at streetsoundsrecordingstudio@gmail.com or visit www.streetsounds.org for more information, including pricing and booking availability.

a & e drop
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arts and events



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PREPARE TO BE SPELLBOUND. Hypnotist Ricky Kalmon will perform 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. today and Saturday and 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Funny Bone Comedy Club & Restaurant. Tickets cost \$15 to \$45. For more info call (937) 429-LAFF or visit www.daytonfunnybone.com.

ENJOY LIVE JAZZ AND MEDITERRANEAN MUSIC for free 8 p.m. to midnight every Friday and Saturday at Café Boulevard, 329 E. Fifth St. Questions? Call (937) 824-2722 or visit www.cafeboulevard.com.

PLAY BOARD GAMES AND DINE 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday at the ArtStreet Café. The first 50 people will receive a free ASC brownie and fountain drink or tall coffee.

SINK YOUR TEETH into the prequel of the vampire versus. werewolf "Underworld" trilogy. "Underworld 3: Rise of the Lycans," opens today in theaters. Also in theaters: "Inkheart," starring Brendan Fraser, "Killshot," starring Diane Lane, "Outlander" and "Donkey Punch."

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“Speed-the-Plow:”

LUST, GREED AND BETRAYAL



Tristan Sample, Reed Motz and Theodra Bane star in “Speed-the-Plow,” the UD Theatre Program’s mainstage production about Hollywood movie producers, which opens this weekend. — CONTRIBUTED BY LORI D’AGOSTINO-GOUGH

Money-driven and fame-hungry characters take the Boll Theatre stage

FRANK STANKO
Staff Writer

“Speed-the-Plow” is coming to the UD Boll Theatre stage this weekend, and it’s full of lust, greed and betrayal.

With a cast of only three actors, their dependence on one another is pertinent to the show. Students Reed Motz, Tristan Sample and Theodra Bane act out a tale of character manipulations and the art versus profit debate, set against the backdrop of Hollywood.

“Life in the movie business is like the beginning of a new love affair; it’s full of new surprises, and you’re constantly getting (screwed),” according to www.speedthepLOWonbroadway.com.

The play tells the story of film producers Charlie Fox (played by Sample) and Bob Gould (played by Motz) competing to impress the head of a production company with the next

big Hollywood blockbuster. The new secretary (played by Bane) adds wood to the fire by tearing the duo apart.

For Bane, the character of Karen is all about the art of making movies.

“She believes you can and should make good films,” Bane said. “In many ways (being in Hollywood) is a threat to her.”

Bane said she was intimidated being the only first-year to audition, but her respect for playwright David Mamet won out over her nerves.

“Mamet’s writing pulls you along, like stepping on a rollercoaster,” Motz said.

Motz is offstage for only two minutes of the 90-minute play and was initially concerned about the endurance needed for playing Gould, but said once his energy is ignited, it’s near impossible to lose it.

The comedy of “Speed-the-Plow” is dependent on fresh acting, which can be a challenge to the actors and director Tony Dallas.

“We’ve been looking over our lines since November, so the comedy aspect, for us, is pretty much gone,” Sample said. “One night Tony said to us, ‘OK, tonight do something new.’ That used to scare the hell out of me.”

Despite its confidence, it took time for the cast to develop the characters in “Speed-the-Plow.” Bane said her romantic scenes with Sample and Motz were initially difficult and had to work to find a “seduction switch.”

“Our acting is all very touchy feely, and it’s manipulative and intimate,” Bane said about her scene with Motz. “He’s (Sample) either flirting with me and chasing me around the stage or yelling at me. There’s no in between, so it’s all very tense and intimidating.”

Capturing moments in photos

JACQUI BOYLE
Assistant A&E Editor

Artistic talent can be found even in the quietest corners of the University of Dayton’s campus.

UD alumna Gail Krumheuer, the administrator of Testing Services, is a prime illustration.

Testing Services provides a quiet space for students with disabilities to take academic exams and is also a national testing center.

When not coordinating these efforts, Krumheuer enjoys feeding another passion: photography.

While traveling to different parts of the country with her husband, including Texas, Montana and Maine, often to attend tennis tournaments, Krumheuer captures her memories.

“There’s always a camera in our pockets,” she said.

The pictures have produced eye-catching results, especially for an individual with no formal training.

“I like to capture a picture that will be interesting... or will tell a story.”

Her main subjects are nature and her 14-month-old granddaughter. Joyce Kling, who works in the Office of Student Development, has known Krumheuer for eight years.

“Since our meeting, she has provided me the opportunity to enjoy the personal side of her life, and she has shared many pictures that she takes from vacations and her family life,” Kling said.

Stephen Large, a counselor at the center, said he has seen his colleague’s interest in photography develop.

“We all experience stress, both positive and negative, throughout the day and one’s creative choices can help manage that stress,” he said.

Krumheuer’s son-in-law is a professional photographer for WHIO-TV, and according to her, he’s been impressed with her work.

“He told my daughter, ‘Your mom’s not even a professional photographer, and she has taken the best shots of the vacation.’”



Krumheuer took this photo while on vacation in Ogunquit, Maine. — PHOTO BY GAIL KRUMHEUER.

TICKET

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Boll Theatre in KU

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forum

“The destruction or abridgement of a free press...would be an event so evil in its consequences that the least approach toward that end should be halted at the threshold.”

George Sutherland, former U.S. Supreme Court Justice, 1937

fneditorial

CAB:

It's your money, take advantage of it

There's an organization on campus that charges each UD undergrad \$9, which comes out of our student activities fee. It's the Campus Activities Board, and it's here for you. Whether you're the type of person that's into activities or not, shouldn't you at least try to get your \$9 worth?

Our front page article in this issue of *Flyer News* focuses on CAB's budget, a majority of which comes from our \$9-a-piece “contribution.” Is it going toward the right stuff? We think so.

Take, for instance, the trip to Pittsburgh last Saturday for the men's basketball game against Duquesne. For just \$10, students who went got a bus trip there and back (with refreshments) and a ticket into the game. That's a bargain for students, considering the actual cost of the trip per student was considerably more than that. Good times for the students who went aside, the trip may have had another effect: giving the Flyers a “home-court” advantage feel in a building away from home. For a team that recent history suggests struggles on the road, we thank CAB for contributing to the Flyers' victory.

But what CAB does applies to more than just hardcore basketball fans. For all you crafters out there, there's the Arts and Crafts committee. Remember watching movies outside on Humanities Plaza? Thank the CAB Arts and Entertainment committee.

Sure, the Concert and Comedy committee doesn't exactly bring the biggest musical artists or comedians onto campus, but it brings up a good point with their lack of a bigger budget than other schools argument. We've all heard Justin Timberlake sing, so maybe when they bring in smaller or lesser-known bands or comedians, we can thank them for broadening our tastes.

So regardless of what year you may be in, take advantage of what CAB has to offer. Sign up for the trips it puts on, participate in the Weekend Scene activities. Stop complaining that Britney Spears and Dane Cook aren't coming to campus and appreciate the people who are. It's your \$9. Get your money's worth.

yourturn

A new era

President Obama entered office this week and we need to be just as critical of him as of past leaders



JASON LYON OPINIONS EDITOR

It's official, Barack Obama is the 44th president of the United States of America. After months of waiting and anticipation Obama was finally sworn in Tuesday before a crowd of well over a million in the mall in Washington, D.C. It was an impressive event to watch, even on TV, as I haven't seen the nation come together like this in quite a long time. Both Obama and Biden looked confident as they took the oath of office, and President Bush seemed at peace with the entrance of a new administration. There is quite the buzz around this presidency but, that being said, let us all remember that Barack Obama is just one man.

People need to be careful when anointing him as the “savior” of our country who will be able to fix every problem in the world.

Obama has said himself (including Tuesday in his inauguration speech) that he and the rest of our nation faces numerous daunting tasks in the coming months and years. He spoke of fighting terrorism and using our military in combination with diplomacy to bring the United States back up to the top of the world. But, the economic crisis looms over his entire speech.

A stark reminder of this is the fact that the stock market fell under 8,000 (a drop of over 300 points) Tuesday while Obama celebrated being sworn into the Oval Office. No, this is not his fault. The president does not have enough of an effect on the economy to warrant blame for our current economic crisis (that is directed at all of you “Bush ruined our country” people).

I am simply trying to say that President Obama is in for a tough four years, but that does not mean we should shy away from being critical of him. Barack Obama is our commander-in-chief and should be held to the same standards of all before him. That means he doesn't get breaks and he can't take a mulligan. We

can't look the other way when something doesn't go quite right. Instead, break down the policy and see where it went wrong. Remember, Barack Obama is not Jesus, he is not a savior, he is not perfect, he is the 44th president of the United States.

When he makes a mistake (like all presidents have) he needs to be held accountable by us and by the media. The rock star status he has achieved to this point cannot allow him to have free passes, nor can the “well he came into a really crappy situation” excuse.

George W. Bush saw the largest terrorist attack on U.S. soil while he was in office and he reacted to it in Iraq and was crucified in the media to a point he could never recover from. This was unnecessary and should not be done to Obama, but we can still be critical.

Here in the United States we demand the best from our leaders and I hope that is exactly what our new president is able to deliver, but if it is not then we need to be sure to be just as critical of him as we have been of our past commander-in-chiefs.

fnstaff

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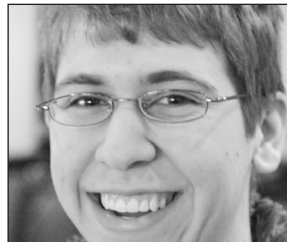
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Word on the street...

Did you watch the 2009 Presidential Inauguration?



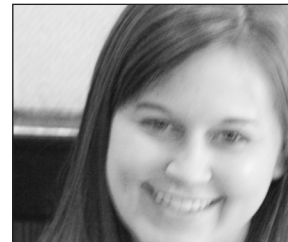
“I didn't watch it because I had class.”

JONATHON DEMETER, FRESHMAN
UNDECLARED ENGINEERING



“I did and I loved when he spoke about our duty to help out poor nations.”

MAX MCDANIEL, FRESHMAN
CIVIL ENGINEERING



“I watched against my better judgement since it was such an important event.”

KRISTEN DIDDLE, FRESHMAN
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

letters to the editor

Students should explore all financial aid options at UD

Recently you published an article from a first-year student who may have to leave UD because of the economic downturn and its impact upon her family. I encourage all students who find themselves in a similar situation to contact the counselors within your Financial Aid Office. This will give you the opportunity to learn about all financing options available — scholarships, grants and student loans — so that you and your family will be fully informed about the decision to return to the university. A University of Dayton education is a significant investment, but we know that it is one with returns that are lifelong. Not only do our students graduate with the best possible professional preparation, but the Marianist values inherent at UD and the relationships made here deeply impact lives and communities locally, nationally and far into the future.

I encourage all students to complete the endowed scholarship application that was e-mailed to undergraduate students, with the deadline of Feb. 15. With the generosity of so many alumni, families, corporations and foundations, we are able to assist students financially, as well as recognize academic excellence and

service to this community through scholarships. Now is also the time to complete or renew the FAFSA (free application for federal student aid), located at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

The members of UD's financial aid office are available to you and will do all that is possible, in a family spirit that is confidential, professional and caring, to assist our students and families in dealing with the financial impact of difficult challenges. Over the years, we have assisted many families who have experienced financial difficulties, job loss, broken families and the many other challenges that life can bring to us. We are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the first floor of Albert Emanuel Hall. No appointment is necessary, or we may be reached at 800-427-5029 by phone or [finaid\(at\)udayton.edu](mailto:finaid(at)udayton.edu).

We want all of our students and families to be fully informed of the financial support structures available, as we navigate this economic storm together.

KATHY MCEUEN HARMON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FINANCIAL AID AND
STUDENT SUCCESS

Application process to live at ArtStreet leaves students in dark

Before I begin, I will admit that my group of friends and I were not admitted into ArtStreet to live next year. That being said, I would like to point out that I am not bitter or angry at ArtStreet; plenty of well-qualified and very bright students applied and I have little doubt that ArtStreet chose the proper students.

My problem is not that I did not get accepted into ArtStreet living next year; my problem is with ArtStreet's inability to tell us (along with many other students) more than three days after we were supposed to know.

Granted, with so many groups applying for a spot, it must have been tough to decide, yet this wait was simply inexcusable. Rather than knowing on Friday, the 16th, (it says on the ArtStreet Web site that applicants would hear "no later than January 16th") we were forced to wait until this Tuesday the 20th, leaving us to wonder all weekend as

to our status, making it quite an unpleasant experience.

We never received any indication that they were still deciding or even when we might hear from them on their decision. We were simply left in the dark; an unprofessional and somewhat cold move on their part.

Perhaps instead of a set date for accepted applicants, the reviewers at ArtStreet should have waited and given themselves proper time to judge and look over all the applicants carefully, then let all of the applicants know their fate at one time, good or bad. Again, I am not resentful for not gaining a spot in ArtStreet.

I understand the decision was a very tough one to make. It just seems as though more communication could have been utilized to ease the minds of those in waiting.

BEN KOHNTOPP, SOPHOMORE
HISTORY

Senior provides his opinion of *Flyer News*, happy with what it does on campus at UD

I am thankful for *Flyer News*, and I think that we should universally praise the editorial board for what a job it does!

Personally, without *Flyer News* I wouldn't have the bi-weekly in-depth articles reminding me to: 1) appreciate my time at Dayton; 2) remember how much community matters at UD; and 3) drop the toaster in my bath.

Oh, sorry, that last one should really be attributed to the box with the image described by text.

I cannot understand why anybody would become angry with the "controversial" opinions of *Flyer News*. For instance, I absolutely agreed with the image with text criticizing Sister Schmeling.

After all, the *Flyer News* editorial board has been engaged in performing due diligence by informing

the student body about all the decisions Sister Schmeling has made this year. Therefore, they have every right to put pressure on her.

In fact, thanks to *Flyer News*, Sister Schmeling isn't the cause of every problem we have on campus. If it weren't for this publication's stellar reporting, I wouldn't be able to tell fact from fiction when it comes to all the rumors about the evil things she has done to our wonderful community.

For instance, I loved the story about how she confronted the alumni, said she wanted to turn UD into a dry campus, declared the Galactic Empire, and proclaimed herself a Death Eater.

Why, if I were Sister Schmeling and *Flyer News* hadn't been doing its job these past few months, I'd just shrug my shoulders and sar-

castically say, "Thanks for asking to interview me about your concerns."

God forbid if that was the world we lived in!

And UWIRE! Like a reader inferred last issue, it really is a great news source. It does not remind me that civilization is forever one generation away from collapse.

Lastly, I am truly inspired by the quotations the editorial board places at the top of the editorial page every issue. Especially the recent one about censorship. I'm appreciative that we have a paper that censors the filler material from its pages.

PETER BLAZUNAS, SENIOR
ECONOMICS

Personal finance should be a mandatory course for all students before they graduate from college

Throughout the past year we have all learned a great deal about the issues facing our great country. Regardless of political beliefs, there is a lot we can all learn from today's economic climate. Some decide to focus the blame at greedy banks and mortgage companies for taking advantage of ordinary people. As this is true in many circumstances, we must also take responsibility for our own actions.

There comes a point where as Americans, in a free-market economy, we need to be better educated on the economy and with controlling our personal finances. There are thousands of people around this country that were taken advan-

tage of because of their inability to understand the documents they were signing. Many individuals purchased houses they ultimately could not afford. In a country where many dream of owning a house and raising a family, we should be better prepared to make such purchases and control our finances. In an era of consumerism, we have been more concerned about monetary goods versus paying monthly mortgage payments and saving.

Despite being a senior finance major here at UD, it wasn't until last semester that I took a class where personal finances were discussed at great length. I understand how the ability to think critically is an im-

portant part of our daily lives, but it amazes me that we can be required to take classes in philosophy, biology, and history without ever having to take a personal finance course. It seems important to me that all Americans are able to balance a checkbook, to understand what a Roth IRA is, to start early when planning retirement, and to understand the home-buying process. Personal finance should be taught in every high school, and it amazes me that we can graduate from this fine university without ever having to learn the fundamentals of financial planning.

STEVEN PARKER, SENIOR
FINANCE

Some *FN* writers are still putting together a "bucket list" of things to do before graduating from UD. Have any ideas? Send them to editor@flyernews.com



ourpolicy

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Men's Hoops

LOWERY BRINGS WINNING WAYS TO DAYTON

The JuCo transfer junior point guard seems to be 'perfect fit' for Brian Gregory's scheme

ERIC WEINHEIMER
Staff Writer

On a side hoop in the newly refinished Athletic Practice Facility, Rob Lowery quietly works alone on his jump shot.

One after another, the shots fall through the rim. Lowery, a junior college transfer who wasn't recruited out of high school, makes each shot look virtually effortless. He makes it look so simple, but he's living proof that anything worth having doesn't come easily.

"It's always been my plan to get a scholarship playing basketball and get my education paid for," Lowery said.

His dream became a reality at the beginning of this season. Like a long road trip, it's more about the journey than the destination.

Lowery's journey began as a 6-year-old in Maryland, when he first began playing basketball with the other kids at his babysitter's house. About a year later his mother realized his love for the game and enrolled him in the local Boys and Girls Club basketball league. It was shortly thereafter when he and those around him began to see his natural talent for the game and he started playing AAU basketball at the age of 9.

Lowery continued playing basketball through high school

at McDonough high in Pomfret, Md. After not being recruited out of high school, he enrolled and played at Chesapeake Community College for the 2005-2006 season.

At the end of the season, Lowery looked to transfer to a junior college that produced championships and Division I players. He joined the team at Cecil Community College as a redshirt sophomore for the start of the 2006-2007 season.

"During his redshirt year he never missed a practice or a workout and started to understand what it took to be a Division I player," Cecil Community College head coach Bill Lewit said.



As Lowery kept working to become a better player in practice, the active Cecil roster cruised to a No. 1 ranking in the final national poll of the season. The following season — his sophomore year of eligibility — Lowery was ready to step into the Cecil active roster and contribute right away. It was during this season Lowery began to make strides as a player.

"He learned about shot selection, leadership and running a team that required him to pass first but also needed his scoring," Lewit said.

Lowery contributed in all facets of the game during his sophomore year. From the point guard position, he averaged 18.2 points, 8.7 assists, 4.2 rebounds and 2.1 steals per game for Cecil. He achieved these numbers with efficient shooting percentages from the field (48 percent), from 3-point land (40 percent) and from the free-throw line (78 percent). His contributions helped lead Cecil to a 31-0 regular season record.

Along the way Cecil stacked up the hardware, winning the Cecil JuCo Holiday Tournament in which Lowery was the MVP, the Maryland junior college regular season championship and the No. 1 national ranking in the final 10 weeks of the poll. Cecil suffered its lone loss of the season when it was upset in the NJCAA national tournament to take its overall record to 31-1.

Lowery was then selected to participate in the national junior college all-star game in which he recorded 19 points and eight assists.

"Rob developed into an incredible leader who his teammates loved to play with," Lewit said. "He brought high energy and intensity on both ends of the floor and knew how to distribute the [ball] to keep everyone involved but also had the

uncanny ability to know when to score himself."

Dayton beginnings

Ironically enough, it was after Cecil's lone loss that University of Dayton Assistant Coach Jon Borovich paid Lowery a visit. The recruitment process started late for the Flyers as other Division I schools, such as Fresno State and Central Florida, were already actively recruiting Lowery. It didn't matter. Lowery decided on UD after his official visit because he enjoyed the campus and got along with his teammates right off the bat.

Lowery considers himself a "perfect fit" for the Flyers, and Head Coach Brian Gregory couldn't agree more.

"We recruited him because we had a need for [the position] and he was a good fit," he said. "What's important for junior college transfers is the academic fit, too. Rob has done a great job of adjusting to that as well."

A self-admitted "jokester" in high school, Lowery acknowledges he always struggled with school work. But with this scholarship and the opportunities that come with it Lowery has been able to take it more seriously.

On the court, Lowery has fit in just as well. Lowery feels at ease in the Flyers' offense because it is similar to that of Cecil. He also appreciates playing for Gregory. As a former point guard himself, Gregory can give specialized advice to Lowery.

"[He] helps me a lot. When I make mistakes he can relate and tells me what to do and what to fix," Lowery said.

Lowery's presence has been felt in his first season as a member of the Flyers. He is not only third on the team in scoring average, but he has also brought with him a winning attitude.



Junior point guard Rob Lowery has had a knack for driving past defenders lately. The JuCo transfer is now a combined 47-3 in his last season and half of playing basketball. — RYAN KOZELKA/ASSISTANT PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

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"Rob has had a great impact on our team," Gregory said. "Obviously he adds depth to our backcourt and he's accustomed to winning. You can't underestimate that."

As Gregory pointed out, in Lowery's last season and a half (at Cecil and this season with the Flyers) he is a combined 47-3. These numbers, as Gregory put it, "speak for themselves."

Winners show up in big games and Lowery has shown a knack for stepping up for the Flyers. In their only game against a ranked team, Lowery scored a team-leading 21 points against perennial Big East contender Marquette in an 89-75 victory. Lowery, along with teammate Marcus Johnson, also spurred a 66-62 comeback victory over George Mason as they both recorded 13 points.

Mr. Clutch

In Atlantic 10 play Lowery has also come up big for the Flyers. Lowery's flare for the dramatic helped in tallying the first A-10 win of the season against

Fordham with a last-second layup. Lowery also led the Flyers in scoring with 16 points on the road against Duquesne on Jan 17.

Even with his early success, he isn't satisfied. He has big plans for the Flyers this season.

"I want to win the A-10 and

"Obviously he adds depth to our backcourt and he's accustomed to winning. You can't underestimate that."

BRIAN GREGORY

Men's basketball head coach

make the (NCAA) Tournament. But I just don't want to make the Tournament. I want to do some damage in it," Lowery said.

Lowery can obviously see where he wants to go, but that

doesn't mean he's forgotten where he's come from. Aside from a short visit over Christmas Break, this is the longest time Lowery has spent away from home, and he admits he misses it.

Lowery's proud of where he came from and shows it off on his stomach. One of his 10 tattoos spells out his hometown, "Walker Mill," with the skyline of Washington, D.C. in the background.

From the shadow of D.C., Lowery has come to UD to help the Flyers win and he's well qualified to do so. It's been a long journey, but Lowery's not done. He has found a new set of goals, and with a little bit of hard work and perseverance, he knows he and the Flyers can get it done. Lowery certainly knows a thing or two about perseverance.

"We have to keep working and keep getting better everyday," Lowery said. "And, if we believe in what Coach teaches us, there isn't anyone that can stop us."



Lowery puts up a jumper against Duquesne last Saturday. He finished the game with a team-high 16 points. — RYAN KOZELKA/ASSISTANT PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR



*Kelley King - UD Junior
Alive today thanks
to blood donors!*

In 2003, Kelley was diagnosed with leukemia. During her battle with the disease, she needed 14 units of blood and 12 units of platelets. Local blood donors saved Kelley's life and today she is a healthy fellow Flyer.

*Be a Lifesaver, Donate Blood
at a UD Blood Drive:*

Tuesday, January 27 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 31 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

RecPlex

Register to donate on Tuesday, January 27th and receive a "free wings" coupon for BW3's.

Required to donate: A photo ID with your full name. Must be 17 or older (16 with signed parental consent form), weigh at least 110 pounds & be in generally good health.

Questions? Call 937-461-3450
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Commentary

PRESIDENT CALLS FOR PLAYOFF

Commander-in Chief wants to see new way of crowning college football's national champion



CORY GRIFFIN SPORTS EDITOR

President Barack Obama will surely have his hands full with the economic recession, rising healthcare costs and a failing education system. These issues, among others will require the president's constant attention.

"Change" is a word that President Obama's campaign embraced during the last two years while running for the nation's highest office, and the word may be a catch phrase for what could be ahead in the sports world. Although not as important as other issues Obama will face, these issues are sure to gain national headlines.

In the past few years, sports have been at the forefront of controversy in congressional hearings on topics ranging from steroids in baseball to the "spygate" scandal in the NFL, as athletes have taken the stand in highly publicized road-to-nowhere hearings. There will surely be more to come.

After Utah's victory over Alabama in the Allstate Sugar Bowl, Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff considered suing the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) after the Utes were the only unbeaten team left in the country, and were not given the opportunity to compete for a

national championship.

Shurtleff was simply echoing the voices of millions of fans across America, who each year spat with their foes about which two teams should be invited to the BCS National Championship game.

While Tim Tebow and the Florida Gators ran off with their second championship in three years, fans watching the game in Utah were disgruntled, as they felt their team should have been considered national champion, and why not? The Utes were undefeated, and defeated three teams in the final media rankings. They, however, only mustered 16 first-place votes in the final AP Poll, finishing at No. 2.

The Utes weren't the only team with beef for the system. Texas had defeated Oklahoma in the teams' regular season meeting, only to find out that they were left out of the Big XII Championship Game and BCS National Championship game. USC was forced to play in the Rose Bowl after losing a game to Oregon State earlier this season, and after mutilating Penn State in the annual Big Ten/Pac 10 Showdown, petitioned for votes as the nation's No. 1 team.

Regardless of all the hysteria over the system, we all know that college football needs a playoff. How else are we to determine a true champion? Playoffs take place in all of our major sports — NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL and of course NCAA Basketball. We all know how crazy "March Madness" is —

just imagine how great a "January Madness" would be.

This idea has been written about several times, but has never really had much of a chance as television ratings and big-money sponsors have dominated any hope of such an event, until now.

With President Obama on the campaign trail in the final days before voting day, both he and Republican candidate Sen. John McCain agreed to talk with the panel on Monday Night Football's halftime show. During this time, Obama gave college football fans a chance to pull for his victory the following day.

"I think it's about time we had a playoff in college football," he said.

President Obama suggested an eight-team single-elimination tournament where a true champion could be crowned on the field.

Why a playoff is needed

Critics of President Obama's plan say that the college football season is the most meaningful regular season in sports.

That may be so, but try telling fans of the Texas Longhorns. Texas defeated Oklahoma Oct. 11 on a neutral site, only to be left out of the title game after achieving an identical record of 11-1 during the regular season.

Try telling that to fans of USC, who lost just one game along the way as well, and defeated Big 10 power Ohio State.

Try telling that to fans of Texas

Tech, who defeated Texas during the regular season, but lost to Oklahoma Nov. 22 and finished with an 11-1 record.

And the aforementioned Utah, which finished its season undefeated with its upset of Alabama.

The current system is based on 'style points,' a compassionate way of describing margin of

"'Change' is a word that President Obama's campaign embraced during the last two years while running for the nation's highest office, and the word may be a catch phrase for what could be ahead in the sports world."

victory. Any doubts? Look at the outcome of Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops running up the score on opponents by throwing the ball with Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford late into the second half of each game.

Oklahoma scored more than 45 points in each of its seven games following its loss to Texas. It

scored 60 in five straight. While many coaches would sit on the football and run counter plays until the clock ran out, Stoops and the Sooners continued to run up the score on their opponents to finally win the popularity contest in the several polls taken into account for the BCS system.

It's hard to blame Stoops, however, as the BCS system is the definite culprit. Which coach wouldn't do what he had to do to put his team in a situation where it could win a national championship?

Obama and Shurtleff aren't the only politicians against the system. According to the *Orlando Sentinel*, Rep. Joe Barton of Texas and Rep. Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii have both sought legislation that would prohibit any team being crowned national champion without participating in a playoff.

While most agree that legislators and politicians have much more to worry about than sports, most of us can agree that a playoff system in college football would be ideal.

Obama's presidency will surely be more important on the terms of other issues like the economy, terrorism, the war in Iraq, and other national issues, but many college football fans will celebrate the day that the BCS system agrees to use a playoff to crown its champion. Not everybody would be happy of course, but it would surely be more entertaining than a bunch of bowl blowouts.



Now that he has taken office, President Obama will face issues in sports ranging from steroids in baseball to the BCS system in college football. — PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DAYTON DAILY NEWS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL FINAL BCS RANKINGS

If President Obama were able to institute a playoff system prior to last year's college football bowl season, the teams on the right may have been the teams selected to participate in the eight-team field.

1. Oklahoma
2. Florida
3. Texas
4. Alabama
5. USC
6. Utah
7. Texas Tech
8. Penn State